



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

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News Release

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Release No.: 160715

CHEQUAMEGON-NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUES DAMAGE ASSESSMENTS, BEGINS MAKING REPAIRS

PARK FALLS, Wis. (July 15, 2016) –

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest continues to assess the damages caused by the heavy rain and flash flooding Monday night.

U.S. Forest Service personnel have been in the field assessing road, trail and bridge conditions this week documenting which roads are safe. More than 1,000 miles of Forest Service roads and more than 80 percent of the bridges and culverts within the storm track were impacted by the storm event.

The U.S. Forest Service has more than 60 employees working the incident including heavy equipment operators who are making repairs to priority roads.



Damage to Forest Road 199 on the Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

For the public's safety, the Forest has issued a Road and Area Closure order for portions of the Great Divide and Washburn Ranger Districts. There are numerous roads and bridges that are currently impassable due to flooding and washouts. Please note that closure devices may not be in place indicating the road is impassable.

National Forest lands, roads, trails and developed recreation sites west of Highway 13, north of Highway 77 and east of Highway 63 are currently closed. The closure area also includes National Forest system lands west of Highway 63 to the Delta-Drummond Road (Forest Road 223) to Forest Road 397 to Forest Road 224. Within the closure area, Beaver Lake

Campground, Namekagon Campground and St. Peter's Dome-Morgan Falls are closed until further notice.

"We are working hard to conduct the assessments, make repairs to priority roads that access residents and ensure public safety," said Jim Grant, Incident Commander for the storm event. "We have opened several roads within the closure area for local traffic and we anticipate that number to increase."

For a current status update and listing of roads that are open to local traffic please visit www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF and click on the Flash Flooding Affects Forest link in red. "The rest of the Forest is open to the public with plenty of campgrounds, recreation areas and trails for visitors to enjoy. For their safety, we ask that visitors avoid the impacted area," said Mike Martin, District Ranger on the Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

The potential for additional rainfall and wind may cause further damage to Forest Service roads, bridges, trails and recreation areas. Drivers are advised to practice defensive driving techniques, reduce your speed, drive with your lights on and watch out for flooded roadways, washed-out culverts and bridges. In addition, Forest personnel are using heavy equipment to make repairs to the roadways.

"The soil is very moist from all of the rain and flooding. We are still seeing conditions change on the roads, trails and bridges and in some cases roads that were safe yesterday are no longer safe today. We ask that folks use extreme caution if driving in the impacted area," said Martin.

For more information on the Flood Event please visit the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF. You may also contact the Great Divide Ranger District at 715-634-4821.

For more information about the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest please visit our website at www.fs.usda.gov/CNNF or follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/CNNF002> or like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CNNF002>.

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Photo Caption:

Forest Road 390 - The storm July 11 damaged Forest Road 390 on the Great Divide Ranger District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest.

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